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Lourdes Lozano

City of Hialeah

December 7, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Basic Service Tier Encryption*, MB Dkt. No. 11-169.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The City of Hialeah writes to support the FCC's proposal to allow cable operators to encrypt the basic service tier on all-digital cable systems. We believe that allowing encryption along with the proposed reasonable transition measures for those customers who need additional equipment will provide significant benefits to consumers.

Encryption will enable operators to turn cable services on and off remotely, thereby eliminating the hassle of scheduling a service visit from technicians. Also, since there will be fewer technician visits, that means fewer trucks on our roads, resulting in less congestion and pollution. Encryption also would cut down on piracy, which has benefits to overall service quality for all customers.

We also support the consumer protection measures that the Commission has proposed for customers who may need set-top boxes at the time of encryption. The Commission has proposed reasonable transition measures to accommodate that group of subscribers and we support those measures.

In sum, we believe that the Commission has taken a balanced approach in the NPRM. It has recognized the significant pro-consumer benefits associated with encrypting the basic tier, while taking reasonable consumer protection measures for those few customers, including low-income customers, who may be impacted by encryption. We urge that the proposed rule change be adopted as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Carlos Hernandez,
Mayor City of Hialeah

JR/aa

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